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BUSINESS PROGRAMS | NOTARY PUBLIC

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Apostilles Issued by the California Secretary of State

In an effort to achieve uniformity to the greatest extent possible with Apostilles issued by other states of the United States, and to closely mirror The Hague Conference on Private International Law's model certificate, the Apostilles issued by the California Secretary of State have changed. The new California Apostille is modeled on the [trilingual model certificate](#) published by the Hague Conference. The changes noted below conform to the Conclusions and Recommendations Adopted by the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the Hague Apostille, Evidence and Service Conventions (2003) and [Conclusions and Recommendations](#) of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the Hague Apostille, Service, Taking of Evidence and Access to Justice Conventions (2009).

As of November 1, 2011, Apostilles issued by the California Secretary of State:

- Have a standard header utilized by the Business Programs Division of the California Secretary of State;
- Are black and white with a black, non-embossed California State Seal;
- Contain the California Secretary of State's signature;
- Conform to the trilingual version of the model Apostille certificate published by the Hague Conference on Private International Law in the form of a bordered box with sides at least 9 centimeters long on an *allonge* (a separate attachment) that is 8.5 x 11 inches; and,
- Have additional language below the 10 standard items contained in a bordered box.

Apostilles are affixed to the signature page of the document with staples. A red, rubber stamp impression of the California State Seal is overlapped on the Apostille and the document.

A link to the California Secretary of State's website is included on the Apostilles issued by the California Secretary of State after October 1, 2006. This link on the Apostilles can be used by the receiving party to verify the issuance of the Apostille.